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# THE ALBUM WRITER'S FRIEND.

COMPRISING MORE THAN

THREE HUNDRED CHOICE SELECTIONS OF  
POETRY AND PROSE,

SUITABLE FOR WRITING IN AUTOGRAPH ALBUMS, VALEN-  
TINES, BIRTHDAY, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS.

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

---

Our lives are albums, written through  
With good or ill, with false or true,  
And as the blessed angels turn the pages of our years,  
God grant that they may read the good with smiles,  
And blot the ill with tears.

---

COMPILED BY J. S. OGILVIE.

NEW YORK:  
J. S. OGILVIE AND COMPANY,  
25 Rose Street.

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**1881.**

**By J. S. OGILVIE.**

---

## PREFACE.

Who among the readers of this preface has not been invited to write a few words of sentiment in the Album of a friend? As an aid to the many thousands who have received this invitation, and have not known what to write, we offer this collection of choice verse and prose, as an aid to them and all others, with the hope that our labor shall not have been spent in vain, nor be altogether unappreciated. Great care has been taken to procure as many *original pieces* as possible. Many choice verses suitable for Birthday, Christmas and New-Year celebrations, have been added; which, with the collection of articles embracing sentiment, affection, humor, and miscellany, is offered to a generous public by

THE COMPILER.

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## →—DEDICATION VERSES—←

SUITABLE FOR INSCRIPTION ON TITLE PAGES OF  
ALBUMS.

---

Go forth, thou little volume,  
Like Noah's faithful dove,  
And bring to darling ——  
An olive leaf of love.

---

My Album's open! Come and see!  
What! Won't you waste a line on me?  
Write but a thought, a word or two,  
That Memory may revert to you.

---

TO MY FRIENDS:—

My Album is a garden spot  
Where all my friends may sow,  
Where thorns and thistles flourish not,  
But flowers alone may grow.  
With smiles for sunshine, tears for showers,  
I'll water, watch and guard these flowers.

Go forth, thou little volume,  
I leave thee to thy fate ;  
To love and friendship truly  
Thy leaves I dedicate.

---

Go, Album ! range the gay parterre ;  
From gem to gem, from flower to flower,  
Select with taste and cull with care,  
And bring your offering, fresh and rare,  
To this sweet maiden's bower !

---

WHEN years elapse,  
It may, perhaps,  
Delight us to review these scraps,  
And live again 'mid scenes so gay,  
That Time's rough hand has swept away ;  
For when the eye, bedimmed with age,  
Shall rest upon each treasured page,  
Those pleasant hours  
That once were ours  
Shall come again, like Autumn flowers,  
To bloom and smile upon us here  
When all things else seem sad and drear ;  
'Twill tune our hearts and make them sing,  
And turn our Autumn into Spring !

---

Go, little book, thy destined course pursue,  
Collect memorials of the just and true,  
And beg of every friend so near  
Some token of remembrance dear.

As life flows on from day to day,  
And this, your book, soon fills,  
How many may be far away  
From treasured vales and hills?

But there is joy in future time  
To turn the pages o'er,  
And see within a name or rhyme  
From one you'll see no more.

---

LIFE is a volume,  
From youth to old age,  
Each year forms a chapter,  
Each day is a page.  
May none be more charming,  
More womanly (manly) true,  
Than that, pure and noble,  
Sketched yearly by you.

---

ANY kind wishes will be written here,  
And none more sincere than mine.  
But—  
Words are lighter than the cloud-foam  
Of the restless ocean's spray ;  
Vainer than the trembling shadow  
That the next hour steals away:  
By the fall of summer raindrops  
Is the air as deeply stirred,  
And the roseleaf that we tread on  
Will outlive a word.

WE may write our names in Albums ;  
We may trace them in the sand ;  
We may chisel them in marble,  
With a firm and skillful hand :  
But the pages soon are sullied,  
Soon each name will fade away ;  
Every monument will crumble,  
Like all earthy hopes, decay.  
But, dear friend, there is an Album,  
Full of leaves of snowy white,  
Where no name is ever tarnished,  
But forever pure and bright.  
In that Book of Life, God's Album,  
May your name be penned with care,  
And may all who here may write,  
Have their names forever there.



## SENTIMENT and AFFECTION.

---

PEACE be around thee, wherever thou rovest ;  
May life be for thee one summer's day ;  
And all that thou wish, and all that thou lovest,  
Come smiling around thy summer way.  
If sorrow e'er this calm should break,  
May even thy tears pass off so lightly,  
Like spring showers, they will only make  
The smiles that follow shine more brightly.

---

MAY the chain of friendship formed by the links which are dropped here, serve to unite you more closely in spirit with the friends who have worked it.

May each link be brought to a white heat in the fires of Love ; and, forged on the anvils of Truth, may they be strong as iron, yet light as air : keeping you bravely to the duties of Life. And when the chain of human bondage shall be broken, may they become flowers of eternal brightness in the gardens from whence cometh exceeding peace.

---

OUR lives are albums, written through  
With good or ill—with false or true—  
And, as the blessed angels turn  
The pages of our years,  
God grant they read the good with smiles,  
And blot the bad with tears.

THE gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without adversity.

---

TIME advances like the slowest tide, but retreats like the swiftest current.

---

WHAT'S the use of always fretting  
At the trials we shall find  
Ever strewn along our pathway—  
Travel on, and never mind.

---

LIFE giveth unto each his space,  
A span of earth, an arch of sky,  
And unto each a several grace—  
To each a separate destiny.  
And some were born to win and spend,  
And some to love unto the end.

---

THERE is another album  
Filled with leaves of spotless white,  
Where no name is ever tarnished,  
But forever pure and bright.  
In the Book of Life—God's album—  
May your name be penned with care,  
And may all who here have written,  
Write their names forever there.

---

DAILY we write our autographs on the minds and hearts of those around us.

"POOR is the friendless master of a world. A world  
in purchase for a friend, is gain."

---

So slight a favor 'tis you crave,  
That I can scarce refuse compliance;  
Nor shall I use the page you gave,  
To set your champions at defiance.

Dear lady, vainly awed, I praise  
That dimpled hand I pressed at parting;  
Or those dark eyes, beneath whose gaze  
A cupid lurks equipped for darting.

Nor can I hope to lightly touch  
On charms so oft the theme of lovers;  
To add another, while so much  
That beautiful about thee hovers.

I can but add one little pearl  
To all the gems about thee scattered;  
And say again, sweet, artless girl,  
That all thy poets have not flattered.

---

I HAVE tried for a week, and vainly I seek  
Words of wisdom to write to you here;  
So, wishing you life free from sorrow and strife,  
Nor wanting in friends and good cheer,  
With health—perhaps wealth—  
Love better than self,  
And Truth, far the best, to the end;  
Since content it maintains  
While existence remains,  
I subscribe myself, Truly, your friend.

STRENGTH for to-day, in house and home,  
To practice forbearance sweetly ;  
To scatter kind words and loving deeds,  
Still trusting in God completely.

---

A VOLUME of this kind, it is supposable, will be more or less frequently referred to, in future years, to revive fading recollections and recall pleasant associations ; and, therefore, though it is so easy to moralize, it seems eminently fitting that helpful suggestions should accompany familiar autographs.

Let me say, then, that while in your youth a favorable combination of circumstances permits so much of happiness, the conditions of its enjoyment cannot always remain as now.

As the responsibilities, at present borne for you, shall come to rest on your own shoulders, and the darker shades of life's history are unfolded, you will find the peace, which floweth like a river, only in the degree in which you resolutely perform every known duty ; and, forgetting your own wants—whether fancied or real—devote your thoughts, as well as your energies, to making the society in which you move, happier for your being.

That you may indulge in no selfish ease ; but bestow, as well as enjoy, a full share of the pleasures of time, and afterward receive a crown of glory, is the earnest wish of your friend—

---

I WOULD that I could express my mind  
To you, dear friend, in scribbling some rhyme ;  
But you know my failing as well as I,  
And you'd better get another to try.



THAT one who can work right on, quietly waiting for recognition, if it come: if not, yet right on, is the true nobleman.

---

Dost thou know, love, that thy smile  
Makes the whole world bright for me?

Just as sunrise pours a sudden  
Purple glory on the sea.

Ah! had I that power, ever  
Should the world look bright to thee.

---

I KNOW not what to write about,

So many themes are pressing ;  
All good enough in very truth,

But quite unprepossessing :  
Each moment of thy future life,  
Live holy, whether maid or wife.

And let it be thy constant care,  
Midst earthly joy and sorrow,  
By watchfulness and fervent prayer,  
Each this day and to-morrow,  
To be prepared when Christ shall come,  
His heaven to make thy final home.

---

Oh, those eyes! so calm, serene—  
Sweetest eyes were ever seen.  
Will the woes of coming years  
Ever shadow them with tears? .  
Shall my life the sunshine own,  
That last night upon me shone,  
When, beneath the summer skies,  
Beamed on me those brown, brown eyes?

THESE little souvenirs possess not their greatest value when first written ; but as time, with scythe in hand, passes along, and we are left standing, we are not the same, but these lines remain. Some, to cheer the saddened by awakening slumbering memories of better things ; and others serving as guide-boards on the road to eternity.

---

AND thou, too, whosoe'er thou art,  
That readest this brief psalm,  
As one by one thy hopes depart,  
Be resolute and calm.

O fear not in a world like this,  
And thou shalt know e're long—  
Know how sublime a thing it is  
To suffer and be strong

---

PRESS ON ! our life is not a dream—  
Though often such its mazes seem.  
We were not born to live at ease—  
Ourselves alone to aid and please  
To each a daily task is given ;  
A labor that shall fit for heaven,  
When duty calls, let love grow warm,  
Amid the sunshine or the storm ;  
With faith, life's trials boldly breast  
Then come a conquerer to thy rest

---

As you travel through life, scatter kind words and gentle deeds ; in so doing, you will enrich your soul. Withhold them, and it tends to poverty.

MAY your life be like the day—more beautiful in the evening; like the summer—aglow with promise; and, like the autumn, rich with the golden sheaves, where good works and deeds have ripened on the field.

---

LET the road be rough and dreary,  
And its end far out of sight;  
Foot it bravely—strong or weary;—  
Trust in God, and do the right.

---

LIFE is but a day, at best,  
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;  
Hope not sunshine every hour;  
Fear not—clouds will always lower.

---

ALL the paths of faith, tho' severed wide,  
O'er which the feet of prayerful reverence pass  
Meet at the gate of Paradise at last.

---

IF I wake, or if I sleep,  
Still the memory I keep  
Of the tender light that lies  
In the depths of those brown eyes.

---

BE blessings scattered o'er thy way,  
My gladsome, joyous, laughing sprite;  
Be thy whole life one summer's day  
Without the night.

ON this leaf, in memory prest,  
May my name forever rest.

---

ON this page I'll write, simply to indite  
My name as your friend.

---

MAY thy life happy be,  
Is my dear wish for thee.

---

It never pays to fret and growl  
When fortune seems our foe,  
The better bred will push ahead  
And strike the braver blow;  
For luck is work,  
And those who shirk  
Should not lament their doom,  
But yield the play,  
And clear the way,  
That better men have room.

---

DESIRE not to live long, but well;  
How long we live, not years, but actions, tell.

---

MEANNESS shun, and all its train;  
Goodness seek, and life is gain.

---

A BEAUTIFUL life ends not in death.

ROUND went the autograph ; hither it came,  
For me to write in ; so here's my name.

---

PASSING through life's field of action,  
Lest we part before its end,  
Take within your modest volume,  
This memento from a friend.

---

WE meet and part—the world is wide ;  
We journey onward side by side  
A little while, and then again  
Our paths diverge. A little pain—  
A silent yearning of the heart  
For what has grown of life a part ;  
A shadow passing o'er the sun,  
Then gone, and light again has come.  
We meet and part, and then-forget ;  
And life holds blessings for us yet.

---

WHEN things don't go to suit you,  
And the world seems upside down,  
Don't waste your time in fretting,  
But drive away the frown.

---

OLD friends and true friends !  
Don't talk to me of new friends ;  
The old are the best,  
Who stand the test,  
Who book their name as *through* friends.

MAY your coffee and slanders against you be ever the same—without grounds.

---

The world is full of fools.  
And he who would none view,  
Must shut himself in a cave,  
And break his mirror, too.

---

METHINKS long years have flown,  
And, sitting in her old arm-chair,  
—— has older grown.  
With silver sprinkled in her hair,  
Her album thus she holds,  
And turns its many pages o'er,  
And wonders if it still contains  
The memories of yore.  
As o'er these pages thus she runs,  
With many a sigh and kiss,  
Then suddenly she stops and says,  
“Who could have written this?”

---

It never pays to wreck the health  
In drudging after gain;  
And he is sold who thinks that gold  
The cheapest bought with pain.  
An humble lot,  
A cosey cot,  
Have tempted even kings;  
For station high,  
That wealth will buy,  
Not oft contentment brings.

REMEMBER me, is all I ask  
And, if remembrance be a task,  
Forget me.

---

———, life is all before you,  
Stretched out in its misty sheen  
And the future, though now hidder  
Holds much joy for thee, I ween  
Why, then, seek to know what's coming  
It is forming day by day  
But your heart, in blind out-reaching,  
Makes to-morrow of to-day.

"Life is real—life is earnest :"  
And the heroine in the strife  
Is the one who leaves the future—  
Living but the present life;—  
Lives it truly, nobly, grandly  
Thus prepares for coming fate;  
Strives to make her living perfect;—  
Learns to labor and to wait

---

THE violet is for faithfulness,  
Which in me shall abide;  
Hoping, likewise, from your heart  
You will not let it slide.

---

THIS is thine album. May it be  
A source of happiness to thee.  
And may each page that's written o'er,  
Be better than the one before.

'Tis a terrible fate, my dear miss,  
To be asked to write in a book like this ;  
For, scratch my head as hard as I may—  
I've such a skull—

And if I try to moralize,  
Or vent my thoughts in sentiment,  
Or attempt to land you to the skies,  
Or spread myself on compliment,  
I'm so awful dull,

That my efforts would prove futility ; [mind,  
For the sex of your kind, are of that turn of  
That morals, verse and flattery,  
Have to you been so oft defined,  
You are full.

If rhyming I try, adorable Miss,  
The first I think of, is dear little Kiss,  
Or some such nonsense as connubial bliss,  
Or changing your title "Mrs." from "Miss ;"  
But that's prosaical.

To give you advice, I'd never presume ;—  
Incompetence may be the reason for that ;—  
To wish you long life and a blest happy home  
Is aged and stale, exhausted and flat,  
And excruciatingly formal.

Now, what to do I do not know,  
Or how to make my paragraph ;  
So I'll doff my hat, and make my bow  
And send this as my autograph.

---

May there be just clouds enough o'er your life to cause  
A glorious sunset.



THAT every kindly wish and thought,  
By friends expressed within these pages,  
Be yours, and trials common to us all  
May cross your path by "easy stages."

---

REMEMBER me when far away,  
And only half awake ;  
Remember me on your wedding-day,  
And send a slice of cake.

---

WHEN worth and beauty prompt the line,  
Perhaps a pen as poor as mine  
May be forgiven  
To try and write of things divine,  
And think of heaven !  
But pause, rash verse ! and don't abuse  
A bashful maiden's ear with news  
Of her own beauty !  
And yet no other theme I'll choose,  
Or think a duty !  
So, then, for fear I might offend,  
I'll say, *God bless her !*—and thus end.

---

THE earth can boast no purer tie,  
No brighter, richer gem,  
No jewel of a lovelier dye,  
Than Friendship's diadem.

Then may this ray of light divine  
Ne'er from our bosoms fade ;  
But may it on our pathway shine,  
Till death our hearts invade.

~~—~~ is your name,  
Single is your station;  
Happy be the little man  
That makes the alteration.

---

Oh! love is such a strange affair;  
So strange to all.  
It cometh from above  
And lighteth like a dove  
On some.  
But some it never hits  
Unless it gives them fits.  
Oh, hum.

---

Thy cheerful, gentle ways, I do admire;  
Thy future, to be happy, I greatly desire;  
Thy trusting confidence, may I require;  
Thy firm friend to be, will I aspire.

---

As a slight token of esteem,  
Accept these lines from me;  
So plain and simple, they do seem  
Unworthy such as thee.  
But soon these traced lines will fade  
And disappear—'tis their doom.  
May you, unlike them, be arrayed  
In a perpetual bloom.

---

In memory's wreath may one bud be entwined for me.

WE are all placed here to do something. It is for *us*, and not for *others*, to find out what that something is, and then, with all the energy of which we are capable, honestly and prayerfully to be about our business.

---

OH! think of me some day  
When I am far away ;  
I'll pray thy days be long  
And joyous as the song  
Of sweet birds singing near,  
Thy heart with love to cheer.

---

MAY joy thy spirit fill,  
All care and sorrow cease ;  
Remember 'tis His will  
Who hath spoken, " Peace! "

---

IN fair and sunny beauty, or gray 'neath evening skies,  
The purple hills from misty vales, upward to heaven rise :  
Their rugged side we scarce can see o'er-decked with  
    fern and heather,  
That rings its scented violet bells through fair and  
    stormy weather ;  
So may thy life be clothed with flowers, and breathe a  
    purer air,  
Fresh from the " everlasting hills," knowing no grief or  
    care,—  
And if the sunny sky must pale, as pales the setting sun,  
May it only show the stars are near, peeping out, one by  
    one!

THESE few lines to you are tendered,  
By a friend sincere and true;  
Hoping but to be remembered  
When I'm far away from you.

---

WORK, while yet the daylight shines,  
With a loving heart and true,  
For golden years are fleeting by,  
And we are passing, too.

Wait not for to-morrow's sun  
To beam upon thy way,  
For all that thou can'st call thine own,  
Is in this *one to-day*.

Then learn to make the most of life—  
Make glad each passing day—  
For time will never bring thee back  
The chances swept away.

Leave no tender word unsaid—  
Do good while life shall last ;—  
You know the mill can never grind  
With the *water that is past*.

Let not the hours we've spent together,  
Go past as nothing, by ;  
Forget me not, e'en though you must  
Remember with a sigh.

---

THANKSGIVING-DAY again is here,  
And turkey is the leading question ;  
I wish, with heartiness sincere,  
That you may have a good digestion.

THOUGH many flowers have faded from my life,  
And clouds obscure the brightness of its sky;  
This have I learned : we can do much to make  
Our lives a blessing and our words a power,  
If what we find to do, for Christ's dear sake,  
We do with faithfulness, from hour to hour.

---

It may occur in after life  
That you, I trust, a happy wife,  
Will former happy hours retrace,  
Recall each well-remembered face.  
At such a moment I but ask—  
I hope 'twill be a pleasant task—  
That you'll remember as a friend  
One who'll prove true e'en to the end.

---

I saw two clouds at morning,  
Tinged by the morning sun,  
And in the dawn they floated on  
And mingled into one;  
I thought that morning cloud was blest,  
It moved so sweetly to the west.  
Such be your gentle motion,  
Till life's last pulse shall beat,  
And you float on in joy to meet  
A calmer sea, where storms shall cease—  
A purer sky, where all is peace.

---

WHEN on this page you chance to look,  
Just think of me and close the book.

BE a good girl, and you will be a true woman.

---

MAY thy darkest hours in life be well lighted with the  
sunshine of contentment.

---

YOURS sincerely—although merely—

---

✓ WHEN the golden sun is setting,  
And your heart from care is free,  
When o'er a thousand things you're thinking,  
Will you sometimes think of me?

---

How long we live, not years, but actions tell;  
That man lives twice who lives the first life well.  
Make then, while yet ye may, your God your friend,  
Whom Christians worship, yet not comprehend.  
The trust that's given, guard; and to yourself be just;  
For, live we how we can, yet die we must.

---

LIVE well; how long or short, permit to Heaven;  
They who forgive most, shall be most forgiven.

---

SOAR not too high to fall, but stoop to rise;  
We masters grow of all that we despise.

---

YOUR fate is but the common fate of all;  
Unmingled joys here to no man befall.

## ✦ MISCELLANEOUS. ✦

---

MAY e'en thy failings lean to virtue's side.

---

HOURS are golden links—God's token—  
Reaching heaven, but one by one;  
Take them, lest the chain be broken  
Ere thy pilgrimage be done.

---

HOUSE beautiful—your book, from end to end,  
And every page a room to lodge a friend;  
Fain would I enter with a seemly grace,  
Attired and mannered as befits the place;  
But best endeavor falls below the aim  
And rests at last, content to leave a name.

---

THE brave man is not he who feels no fear,  
For that were stupid and irrational;  
But, he whose noble soul its fear subdues,  
And bravely dares the danger nature shrinks from.

FLING wide the portals of your heart !  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use, for Heaven's employ—  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy ;  
So shall your Sovereign enter in  
And new and noble life begin.

---

WE could count time by heart-throbs ; he most lives  
who thinks most, speaks the noblest, acts the best.

---

WE ourselves shape the joys and fears  
Of which the life to come is made,  
And fill our future atmosphere  
With sunshine or with shade.

---

WHEN the name that I write here is dim on the page,  
And the leaves of your album are yellow with age,  
Still think of me kindly, and do not forget  
That, wherever I am, I remember you yet.

---

THE massive gates of circumstance  
Are turned upon the slightest hinge,  
And thus some seeming pettiest chance,  
Oft gives to life its after tinge.

---

OH, for a home in Zululand, or Arctic regions cold,  
A peasant's cot or hermit's hut, midst solitude untold,  
With Kaffirs or with Hottentots, in Egypt or Leone—  
'Twere bliss to live in *any* spot where albums are unknown.



IN times of prosperity our friends are many,  
But the time of adversity tries and proves them

---

GEMS of price are deeply hidden,  
'Neath the rugged rocks concealed ;  
What would ne'er come forth unbidden,  
To thy search may be revealed.

---

WHILE the fading flowers of pleasure,  
Spring spontaneous from the soil,  
Thou wilt find the harvest's treasure  
Yields alone to patient toil.

---

IF recollections of friends brighten moments of sadness,  
What a fund of delight is here treasured for thee !  
If advice and kind wishes bring goodness and gladness,  
How perfect and happy thy future must be.

---

THE tissues of the Life to be—  
We weave with colors all our own,  
And in the field of Destiny,  
We reap as we have sown.

---

THERE is seldom a line of glory written upon earth's face, but a line of suffering runs parallel with it ; and they that read the lustrous syllables of the one, and stoop not to decipher the spotted and worn inscription of the other, get the least half of the lesson that earth has to give.

LEAF green on ground of white,  
My name, I fain would write  
That you remember still  
In June or in December chill,  
We two are friends.

---

OH, wayward mortal who these books invented,  
Why was't thou not by some kind hand prevented?  
And thereby kept from many a luckless swain,  
The direful knowledge that he lacked a brain—  
Lacked it, at least, where poetry was needed,  
Like the poor wight who here has not succeeded.

---

THROUGH days of doubt and darkness,  
In fear and trembling breath,  
Through mists of sin and sorrow,  
In tears and grief and death ;

Through days of light and gladness,  
Through days of love and life,  
Through smiles and joy and sunshine,  
Through days with beauty rife ;

The Lord of life and glory,  
The King of earth and sea,  
The Lord who guarded Israel ;  
Keep watch, sweet friend, o'er thee.

---

TRUTH—Freedom—Virtue—these have power :  
If rightly cherished, to uphold, sustain,  
And bless thy spirit, in its darkest hour.

THY own trim, modest form,  
Is always neatly clad,  
Thou surely will make the tidiest wife  
That ever husband had.

---

AMONG the many friends who claim  
A kind remembrance in thy heart,  
I too, would add my simple name,  
Among the rest.

---

MAY God's mercy ever guide thee,  
Safe o'er all thy thorny road;  
And His grace what'er betide thee,  
Lead thee home to His abode.

---

THE large are not the sweetest flowers;  
The long are not the happiest hours;  
Much talk doth not much friendship tell;  
Few words are best—I wish you well.

---

LET your life be like a snowflake, which leaves a  
mark, but not a stain.

---

BEGIRT with roses of the royal June,  
A resurrected day swings highest morn  
In every year; and so through life I pray  
Nay never failing changes, bring their day,  
And flames of love in swinging censers rise  
While all thy thoughts leads on toward the skies.

SMALL service is true service while it last ;  
Of friends, however humble, scorn not one :  
The daisy, by the shadow that it cast,  
Protects the lingering dew-drop from the sun.

---

MAKE good use of time, if thou lovest eternity ; yesterday cannot be recalled—to-morrow cannot be secured—to-day only is thine, which, if once lost, is lost forever.

---

IN time we transact business for eternity ; whatever, therefore, we do now, should be done well.

---

MAY each thought be pure, and sincere,  
Addressed upon these spotless pages ;  
Reflections fond, they'll always prove,  
Youthful friend, through many ages.

---

THEY who have light in themselves, will not revolve as satellites.

---

THROUGH time we'll change, and then,  
This little book will somewhat bind us -  
You'll take it up, and think of me  
And all the joys we've left behind us.

---

As the shadow of the sun is largest when his beams are lowest, so we are always least when we make ourselves the greatest.

Across the page of spotless white  
Friends trail the pen, and in our sight  
Grow precious all the lines they write.

As for some white-sailed ship at sea,  
So, little book, my watch for thee;  
Return with freight of love to me.

---

EVERY hour comes to us charged with duty, and the  
moment it is past, returns to Heaven to register itself  
how spent.

---

THERE'S a Divinity that shapes our ends,  
Rough-hew them how we will.

---

OUR eyes see all around in gloom or glow,  
Hues of their own, fresh borrowed from the heart.

---

WRITE your name by kindness, love and mercy upon  
the hearts of those you come in contact with, and you  
will never be forgotten.

---

LET Fate do her worst; there are relics of joy,  
Bright dreams of the past, she cannot destroy;  
They come in the night-time of sorrow and care,  
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.  
Like the vase, in which roses have once been distilled,  
You may break—you may shatter the vase, if you will;  
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

IF you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counsel, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius.

---

COUNT that day lost whose low descending sun  
Views from thy hand no worthy action done.

---

'Tis but a trifle that you ask,  
But this you will admit,  
That trifles, more than greater tasks,  
Will sometimes strain our wit.  
I wish thee health, and wealth, and joy,  
As others have before :  
And were I in poetic mood,  
I'd surely wish thee more.-

---

OUR greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

---

HERE's a sigh for those who love me,  
And a smile for those who hate,  
And whatever sky's above me,  
Here's a heart for every fate.

---

IN all thy humors, whether grave or mellow,  
Thou art such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow :  
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen. about thee,  
There is no living with thee, nor without thee.

MAY you live in bliss, from sorrow away,  
Having plenty laid up for a rainy day ;  
And when you are ready to settle in life,  
May you find a good husband and make a good wife.

---

I WRITE here a name which I hope shall be known  
To all of the ages which follow my own.  
'How conceited !' you say ; but my lines shall remain ;  
'Tis my hope, you'll discover, not I, that is vain.

---

OUR lives are albums ; each new day's a page  
As spotless as the leaf on which I write.  
Whene'er those books of ours shall be read,  
May few unwise inscriptions meet the sight.

---

ON the broad highway of action  
Friends of worth are far and few ;  
But when one has proved her friendship,  
Cling to her who clings to you.

---

WERE mine the power I'd twine for thee  
A crown of jewels rare ;  
Each gem should be a kingdom,  
Each pearl an humble prayer.

---

THERE are few friends in this wide world  
That love is fond and true ;  
But ——— when you count them o'er  
Place me among the few.

THERE is a small and simple flower  
That twines around the humblest oot,  
AND in the sad and lonely hours  
It whispers low: "Forget me not."

---

WHEN asked in an album to write,  
I feel quite inclined to refuse;  
FOR what should I dare to indite  
That would a young lady amuse?  
NOT wit, for I have none of that,  
Nor romance—my fancy is tame;  
AND compliments sound so flat,  
I'm forced to write merely my name.

---

MAY you always be happy,  
And live at your ease;  
GET a kind husband,  
And do as you please.

---

TRUE friends, like ivy and the wall,  
Both stand together or together fall.

---

BEAUTY is but a vain, a fleeting good,  
A shining gloss that fadeth suddenly,  
A flower that dies when almost in the bud,  
A bright glass that breaketh suddenly;  
A fleeting good, a glass, a gloss, a flower,  
Lost, faded, broken, dead within the hour.



MAY happiness ever be thy lot,  
Wherever thou shalt be;  
And joy and pleasure light the spot  
That may be home to thee.

---

How sweet to have a faithful friend,  
In whom we can confide:  
To bless us if we act aright,  
And if we err to chide.

---

HOPE the best, get ready for the worst, and take what  
God sends.

---

BE content with the lot God has marked out for you.  
Love, honor and obey Him in all things, and your last  
days will be peaceful and happy.

---

MAY the morn of thy life be bright and joyous, the  
noontide peaceful and happy, and the sunset gloriously  
hopeful, is the wish of your friend.

---

LIFE, Death and Immortality—these three—the first,  
the Road—the second, the Gate. May you walk safely  
the first, pass triumphantly the second, and rest forever  
in the third

---

MAY the Angels twine for thee  
A wreath of immortality.

Yes, —, I will write my name  
In here, as you request;  
And, if to you its all the same,  
I'll add a line—though rather tame—  
For Critics eyes, as my bequest.

My wishes and my hopes for you,  
Find glad expression here;  
Although, indeed, its very true,  
There is no room for all that's due  
To one we hold so dear.

Good health—first wish of all—  
Of all God's gifts the best;  
A happy heart, that loves to call  
On Him who notes the sparrow's fall  
And promises sweet rest.

Although beset by wordly care,  
Fix all your hopes on Heaven,  
And view by faith the glories fair,  
Which, in that world beyond the air,  
To faithful ones are given.

---

ALTHOUGH I am advised not to write fast,  
I hope the thought I would express may last.

---

You ask for your Album a rhyme;  
With pleasure I hear and obey;  
Refusal were folly or crime—  
For who could to — say "nay?"

MAY Heaven on you its choicest blessings shower—  
Is the sincere wish of your friend.

---

BE kind to all; be intimate with few;  
And may the few be well chosen.

---

EVILS in the journey of life are like the hills which  
alarm travelers upon their road; they both appear great  
in the distance, but when we approach them, we find  
them far less insurmountable than we had conceived.

---

MISS —— ! O MISS —— !  
What can I write that's new  
Among so very many  
Pretty compliments to you?  
In poetry, I fear I'd fail—  
I'm very sure I'd stammer—  
You cannot drive the ponderous nail  
With a small ten-cent tack hammer.  
Since, then, so high I cannot soar,  
Nor chirp notes like the lark,  
Please cancel what I've said before,  
I'll simply make my mark.

---

IT has been beautifully said: The water that flows  
from a spring does not congeal in winter; and those sen-  
timents which flow from the heart cannot be chilled by  
adversity.

ROSES, without thorns, for thee.

---

I'LL just write a few words here ; so that when  
You turn these and life's pages o'er again,  
Your memory back to the time will go,  
When you and I were "O" and "Jo."\*

How we worked together in '79,  
Wafting lightning over the W. U. Line  
To W. M.—called "our quod," you know—  
When you and I were "O" and Jo,

How Lu talked by the hour to us,  
(And we stood it like martyr's making no fuss),  
How we used to get "snatched"—we hated that so—  
When you and I signed "O" and "Jo."

I'LL not wish you all sunshine ; for life is made  
Up of installments of sunlight and shade.  
May you never be worse off through life, as you go,  
Than when on W. M. wire we signed "O" and "Jo."

---

**MAY** the hinges of our Friendship never rust.

---

MAY your days in joy be passed  
With friends to bless and cheer,  
And each year exceed the last  
In all that earth holds dear.

---

\* Initials used by telegraph operators.

THERE's many a trouble  
Would break like a bubble,  
And into the waters of Lethe depart,  
Did not we rehearse it  
And tenderly nurse it,  
And give it a permanent place in the heart.  
Resolve to be merry,  
All worry to ferry,  
Across the famed waters that bid us forget.  
And no longer fearful,  
But happy and cheerful,  
We feel life has much that's worth living for *yet*.

---

MAY we always remain as good friends as we are  
neighbors.

---

The night has a thousand eyes ;—  
The day but one ;  
Yet the light of the whole world dies  
With the setting sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes—  
The day but one ;  
Yet the light of the whole world dies  
When love is done.

---

ON this spotless page my pen essays to trace a record  
of affection; and, as I write, a wish is in my heart that,  
for thee, every life-leaf will be written with the golden  
pen of love.

THOUGH many friends have signed their names,  
And some have left their mark,  
I see a place for me remains  
To add my small remark.  
My wish for thee is: joy through life;  
And bliss supreme, when some one's wife.

---

I PRAY the prayer of Plato old :  
God make thee beautiful within ;  
And let thine eye the good behold  
In everything, save sin.

---

A FEW true friends to aid us and love us,  
And cordial hands to warmly clasp our own ;  
O! surely God hath never made us  
To live distrustingly, selfish, and alone.

---

A VERSE you ask this fine day :  
Of course I'll write you one.  
The task of writing finds its pay  
In joy that it is done.

---

WHY ask a name ;  
Small is the good it brings ;  
Names are but breath—  
Deeds—deeds alone—are things.

WHEN years and months have glided by,  
And on this page you cast your eye,  
Remember 'twas a friend sincere  
That left this kind remembrance here.  
With best wishes for your future cheer.

---

DEAR ———, may your life be blest  
With friendship, love and happiness;  
May all your friends prove true,  
And cheer you all the journey through.

---

MAY Future, with her kindest smile,  
Wreath laurels for thy brow;  
May loving angels guard and keep thee  
Ever pure as thou art now.

---

IF writing in Albums remembrance insures,  
With the greatest of pleasure I'll scribble in yours.

---

IN after years when you recall  
The days of pleasures past,  
And think of joyous hours and all  
Have flown away so fast,  
When some forgotten air you hear  
Bring back past scenes to thee,  
And gently claims your listening ear  
Keep one kind thought for me.

THE truest happiness is found in making others happy.

---

ACCEPT my friend these lines from me,  
They show that I remember thee,  
And hope some thought they will retain  
Till you and I shall meet again.

---

FOR thee, my fair and gentle friend,  
I ask not wealth or fame,  
I only ask thy path may be  
Free from lifes toil and care.

---

AMONG the many friends that claim  
A kind remembrance in thy breast,  
I too would add my simple name.  
Among the rest.

---

NEVER grow weary doing good.

---

I WANT a warm and faithful friend,  
To cheer the adverse hour;  
Who ne'er to flatter will descend,  
Nor bend the knee to power;  
A friend to chide me when I'm wrong;  
My inmost soul to see;  
And that my friendship prove as strong  
For him as his for me.



## ➤✚ ESTEEM and CONFIDENCE. ✚◀

---

SOME little token of regard,  
You wish from me to claim ;  
But as time is pressing hard,  
I will but write my name.

---

EVERY joy that heaven can send ;  
Wealth, and every kind of treasure ;—  
Health and love to thee, my friend,  
And happiness without measure.

---

IN future years, should trusted friends  
Depart like summer birds ;  
And all the comfort memory lends,  
Is false and honeyed words,  
Turn then to me who fain would prove,  
However thy lot be cast,  
That naught his heart can ever move  
From friendship of the past.

MAY your path be strewn with roses,  
Fair and flowery to the end ;  
And when your body in death reposes,  
May your Maker be your friend.

---

WELL, ———, I surely would like to please ;  
But can't think what to say.  
All your friends have wishes bright,  
To cheer your life so gay.

I will add : May all their words  
Be symbols of love and truth ;  
That when you grow weary, and seek for rest,  
You will rejoice in the friends of your youth.

---

To write in your Album, dear friend you ask ;  
Ah, well ! it is not such a difficult task.  
All I can say is contained here in one line :  
May the blessings of Heaven forever be thine.

---

LET not our friendship be like the rose, to sever ;  
But, like the evergreen, may it last forever.

---

HE who does good to another, does also good to himself—not only in the act, but in the consciousness of well-doing is his reward.

---

IN the evening of life, cherish the remembrance of one  
who loved thee in its morning.

SPEAK of me kindly when life's dreams are o'er ;  
Speak of me gently when I am no more.

---

SAFELY down Life's ebbing tide,  
May our vessels smoothly glide,  
And anchor side by side—in heaven.

---

THAT Hope and you,  
Bright days will view.

---

GUARD well thy thoughts; our thoughts are heard in  
heaven.

---

MAY He who hath pencilled the leaves with beauty,  
given the flowers their bloom, and lent music to the lay of  
the timid bird, graciously remember thee in that day  
when He shall gather His jewels.

---

FROM memory's leaves,  
I fondly squeeze  
Three little words—  
Forget Me Not.

---

A LONG life, and a happy one;  
A tall man, and a jolly one—  
Like—well—you know who!

THE hills are shadows, and they flow  
From form to form, and nothing stands;  
They melt like mist, the solid lands,  
Like clouds they shape themselves and go

But in my spirit will I dwell,  
And dream my dream and hold it true;  
For though my pen doth write adieu,  
I cannot say for aye farewell.

---

God's love and peace be with thee, when  
Soe'r this soft Autumnal air  
Lifts the dark tresses of thy hair.

Thou lack'st not friendship's spellword, nor  
The half-unconscious power to draw  
All hearts to thine by Love's sweet law.

With such a prayer, on this sweet day,  
As thou mayest hear and I may say,  
I greet thee, dearest, far away.

---

THIS Album's a mansion which offers its best,  
To the friends who have written their thoughts,  
And the banquet is spread with festal fare,  
Where guests mingle enjoyment with rest;  
And they leave their memorials under thy roof,  
Sometimes in sorrow, more oft in joy divine,  
Nor think a single thought quite good enough,  
To measure its faintest pulse with thine.

## ❖\* BIRTHDAY VERSES. \*❖

---

I wish thee every blessing  
That can attend thee here ;  
And may each future birthday prove  
My wish to be sincere.

---

YOUR Birthday will always be green in the memory of  
your friends.

---

MAY these flowers, presented on your birthday, be  
emblematical of the purity of your life.

---

WAKE early this morning,  
Nor miss the grey dawning;  
Take this greeting from me  
As it goes straight to thee :  
May joy and gladness e'er be thine ;  
And endless brightness round thee shine.



In these days of mirth and glee,  
What shall my message be to thee?  
What can I wish for one so blest?  
Thou sunny bird in a sunny nest!  
This I wish, and this I pray:  
May the joys of life never pass away,  
But only merge in a sigh of bliss—  
Into a life far brighter than this!

---

If words could all my wishes say,  
Oh! how my tongue would talk away.  
I wish this day and many more  
Might on dear ——— blessings pour.  
May health, wealth, love, and peace  
With each succeeding year increase;  
And oh! the last, come when it may,  
Be unto thee a happy day.

---

On this Birthday morn arise  
From thy placid slumber!  
Soon to meet love's longing eyes  
And greetings without number.  
Heavens dearest gifts be thine  
To crown all earthly treasure,  
For gifts that God gives unto thee  
Know neither stint or measure.

---

As beauteous flowers in garlands intertwine,  
May Peace and Love to cheer thy heart combine,  
To give you a very happy Birthday.

Love in every bosom live,  
And the truest pleasure give :  
And happy smiles each lip adorn.  
On this happy birthday morn.

---

LITTLE trouble and still less care,  
With ever a faithful heart to share ;  
Birthdays many, and happy too,  
This is the life I wish for you.

---

DEAR, happy birthdays, how fair ye seem,  
Along the path of time :  
Foot-prints whereon sweet-heart flowers blow,  
By worldly storms unriven,  
That we may mark them as they go,  
And find our way to heaven.  
BRIGHT as a flower may thy Birthday be.

---

TRUE love shall live thro' sorrow's wintry storm,  
And bloom afresh on this glad Birthday morn.

---

LOVINGLY take this birthday souvenir,  
And for my sake esteem it dear !

---

MAY the morning of thy birth break in gladness, and  
the day teem with light-hearted mirth that shall last  
always!



## →\* HUMOROUS.\*←

---

I DIP my pen into the ink,  
And grasp your album tight;  
But for my life I cannot think  
One single word to write.

---

IN the storms of life,  
When you need an umbrella,  
May you have to uphold it  
A handsome young fellow.

---

MAY beauty and truth,  
Keep you in youth;  
Green tea and sage,  
Preserve your old age.

---

SOME people can be very funny;  
I never could be so.  
So I'll just inscribe my name;  
It's the funniest thing I know.

FEE SIMPLE and simple fee,  
And all the fees entail  
Are nothing when compared to thee—  
Thou best of fees—fe-male.

---

WHAT! write in your album, for critics to spy,  
For the learned to laugh at?—No, not I!

---

ACCEPT my valued friendship,  
And roll it up in cotton,  
And think it not illusion,  
Because so easily gotten.

---

WITHSOEVER is this for why?  
Wherefore. Ain't it?

---

WHEN I, poor elf, shall have vanished in vapor,  
May still my memory live—on paper.

---

ROUND went the book, and here it came,  
In it for me to write my name;  
I would write better, if I could,  
But nature said I never should.

---

If you wish to laugh;  
Glance at my autograph.

WHEN on this page you chance to look,  
Think of me and close the book.

---

SAILING down the stream of life,  
In your little bark canoe,  
May you have a pleasant trip,  
With just room enough for two.

---

DEAR FRIEND :—

Do not doubt me ;  
You know more about me  
Than many whose names  
Here appear.  
But to tell them I'll never—  
What ! never ? Hardly ever—  
What I'd like to write to you  
Here.

'Tis nonsense I've written ;  
You'll think I am smitten  
With charms that I hold  
Very dear.  
Please excuse me from writing,  
More lines so inviting,  
Your time to be spent  
Idly here.

---

I care not much for gold or land,  
Give me a mortgage here and there,  
Some good bank stock—some note of hand,  
Or trifling railroad share,  
I only ask that Fortune send  
A little more than I can spend.

MAN's love is like Scotch snuff—  
You take a pinch and that's enough.  
Profit by this sage advice,  
When you fall in love, think twice.

---

LONG may you live,  
Happy may you be,  
When you get married  
Come and see me.

---

MAY you be happy,  
Each day of your life,  
Get a good husband  
And make a good wife.

---

As sure as comes your wedding day,  
A broom to you I'll send ;  
In *sunshine*, use the brushy part,  
In *storm*, the other end.

---

I WRITE in your Album ?  
How very absurd !  
My mind is at random—

---

MAY your cheeks retain their dimples,  
May your heart be just as gay,  
Until some manly voice shall whisper,  
“Dearest, will you name the day ?”

❧\*CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR\*❧  
VERSES.

---

Joy and plenty in the cottage,  
Peace and feasting in the hall;  
And the voices of the children  
Ring out clear above it all :  
A merry Christmas!

---

As Christmas offerings meet your eyes,  
Still closer be sweet friendship's ties.

---

RING out, ye bells, o'er all the earth,  
To tell with brazen voice,  
The tidings of the Saviour's birth  
And bid mankind rejoice.

---

TRUE love shall live thro' sorrows wintry storm,  
And bloom afresh on this glad Christmas morn.

Oh joyous be your Christmas-tide,  
And bright your New Year, too;  
To you may love ne'er be denied;  
May all your friends be true.

---

Our Saviour Christ was born  
That we might have the Rose without the thorn.  
All through His desert life  
He felt the thorns of human sin and strife.  
His blessed feet were bare  
To every hurting brier. He did not spare  
One bleeding footstep on the way  
He came to trace for us, until the day  
The cruel crown was pressed upon the Brow  
That smiles upon us from His glory now.

And so He won for us  
Sweet, thornless, everlasting flowers thus.  
He bids our desert way  
Rejoice and blossom as the Rose to-day.  
There is no hidden thorn  
In His good gifts of grace. He would adorn  
The lives that now are His alone,  
With brightness and beauty all his own.  
Then praise the Lord who came on Christmas day  
To give the Rose and take the thorns away.

---

AGAIN the festive season's here,  
With all that can delight and cheer;  
Oh! may you nothing lack each day,  
But find fresh blessings strew your way.

RING in, ring in the revelries,  
And let the feast be one  
Where not a single guest there is  
But Innocence and Fun !  
Let Christmas warmth keep winter out,  
And joy unbroken reign—  
From floor to roof-tree send the shout  
Till Christmas comes again !

---

A LITTLE bird comes singing,  
Singing a song to you ;  
He sings of sun-tipped flowers,  
Bathed in a diamond dew.  
“The days are coming,” he warbles,  
“When the frost has flown away,  
When the earth will be sweet with flowers  
And the breath of new-mown hay.”

Oh bird so softly singing  
Your song of pleasant days,  
Go sing to her I fondly love,  
Through the wintry cold and bare.  
When the heart is light, the days are bright,  
And the sun seems ever near ;  
So sing her your lay this Christmas Day,  
And through all the bright New Year.

---

OH ! may thy Christmas happy be,  
And naught but joy appear,  
Is now the wish I send to thee,  
And all I love most dear.

Now Christmas comes with hearty cheer  
May kindly thoughts go round,  
And bring to you a glad New Year,  
With peace and plenty crowned.

---

CHRISTMAS is coming, and what will it bring?  
Many a pleasant and gladdening thing!  
Meetings and greetings, and innocent mirth:  
All that is brightest and best on the earth.

---

CHRISTMAS comes, let every heart  
In Christmas customs bear its part:  
The "old" be "young," the sad be *gay*,  
And smiles chase every care away.

---

SURE, Christmas is a happy time  
In spite of wintry weather,  
For laugh, and song, and jest go round  
When dear friends meet together:  
And hearts are warm, and eyes beam *bright*.  
In the ruddy glow of Christmas night!

---

For friends we strive to pierce  
The future, dense and dark,  
But not a ray of light  
We see, nor faintest spark;  
But yet while we have faith to cheer,  
We trusting wish "A bright New Year."

---



HARK, the pearly air is trembling,  
Liquid music floats along ;  
Angels, in sweet joy assembling,  
Thrill the skies with heavenly song.  
"Peace on Earth," is their refrain,  
Oh. be it yours this peace to gain.

---

MAY piety with wishes placed above,  
And steady loyalty and faithful love,  
Be thy blessings this Christmas-tide.

---

O LIFE is but a river  
And in our childhood we,  
But a fair and running streamlet  
Adorned with flowers, see.

But as we grow more earnest,  
The river grows more deep,  
And where we laughed in childhood,  
We, older, pause to weep.

Each Christmas as it passes,  
Some change to us doth bring,  
Yet to our friends the closer,  
As time creeps on, we cling.

---

MAY health and joy, and peace be thine  
Upon this Christmas day,  
And happy faces round thee shine  
As plenteous as the flowers in May.

O BRIGHT be the day  
Sweet echoes resounding,  
Love lighting the way  
And warm hearts surrounding,  
May the breath of His peace  
In thy spirit remain,  
Till Christmas revisits  
The round world again !

---

LET the New Year be to you  
As a childish playmate new,  
Stealing suddenly among  
Apple-boughs that overhung.

Greet him half in confidence,  
Half as ready for defence !  
Is he come to tease or play ?  
Will he give or take away ?

Let him come as friend or foe !  
No New Year can overthrow  
This our friendship that has grown  
From the years that now are flown.

---

O CHILDHOOD is a golden time,  
When all the world is bright,  
When sunshine comes with every morn  
Sweet dreams with every night.  
Were I a fairy, I would give  
To thee a magic kiss,  
That should ensure for the New Year,  
As fair a time as this.

TAKE, my friend, this heartfelt greeting,  
Happy be thy Christmas day,  
Faith, and hope, and love here meeting,  
Speed thee on thy New Year's way!

---

I CANNOT tell what thou wilt bring to me,  
O strange New Year,  
But tho' thick darkness shrouds thy days and months,  
I will not fear.  
Why should I fret my heart to know before  
What may befall?  
With this one thought content—I ask no more—  
God knows it all.

---

HEALTH and prosperity  
Your life to cheer,  
With every blessing  
For the bright New Year.

---

ON this New Year's morning  
My wishes take their flight,  
And wing to thee a greeting  
That would make all things bright.

---

GLADLY now it is my pleasure,  
Joys to wish you, without measure,  
Happiness and peace attending,  
With pure heavenly blessings blending.

MAY the blessings of the old year follow in the new.

We cannot look into the future,  
We cannot tell if the New Year,  
Will bring us fresh sorrows to mourn o'er,  
Or bring us new blessings to cheer.

But an all-seeing God is above us,  
Who knows what for each one is best,  
Who in this world will care for and love us,  
And bring us at last to our rest.

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